

THE “CONDER” TOKEN

COLLECTOR’S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR’S CLUB

Winter 2017 Consecutive Issue #73

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19th Century Tokens



The First British Tokens?



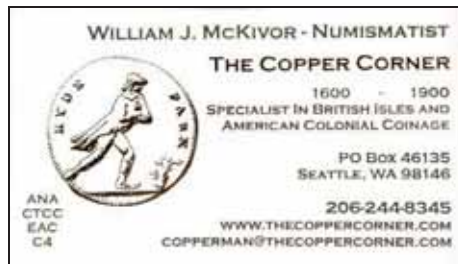
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New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members:

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Mr. Andrey Filimonov,

Moscow, Russia

More thoughts on the passing of John Whitmore

The token collecting community was shocked to hear of the passing of John Whitmore just a short time before the 2016 Token Congress. John was one of the pillars of the British numismatic scene, wearing many different hats in some of the organizations he belonged to, especially with the British Numismatic Trade Association. His knowledge of coins, medals and especially tokens was abundantly clear in the sheer volume of price lists that he issued (these will take up several linear feet on any collector's bookshelf!). In his advertisements he would apologize for the length of his lists -- but no apology was needed. Every one of his customers was thrilled when one showed up in their mailbox, and immediately an hour two would be set aside to go through them and hurriedly e-mailing John in order to reserve pieces they needed (and those of us in the former colonies usually missing out since the mail was slower in getting here than it was to people in the UK!). John's lists were a throwback to lists of the previous decade, including those of S&B Coins and Coins of Beeston. That meant that while there were huge quantities of tokens, there was also great variety -- if you collected 17th, 18th or 19th century there would be something for you. If you liked pub checks, dairy tokens, telephone tokens, engraved coins, transportation tokens or just about any other field chances are there would be something on that list -- and if not, certainly on the next one! Collectors will remember the bizarre methods used in those lists -- one would not order a token by saying "I want the Middlesex 203" but instead would have to give a 5 or 6 digit code of letters and numbers; I had always wondered how John kept his things organized, but his method certainly worked for him as he would be able to quickly get back to you and let you know if something was already sold. For us American collectors -- a nation bad at geography to begin with, and especially so when it concerns other countries -- his lists would also be something of a learning experience, because instead of listing tokens by county as in D&H they would be listed by town -- so if you didn't know that Sleaford was in Lincolnshire, you had something to learn -- and resorting to Google in some instances meant looking at web sites for those towns and thinking "wow, that is lovely - I really must visit there!" I finally met John in person 4 or 5 years ago at the Token Congress, and found him to be EXACTLY as I had expected. Sincere, honest, always eager to learn new things -- and even more eager to share what he knew. His enthusiasm was contagious and his absence will be felt.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Friends,

It seems that old man Winter is hard at it, good time to sit and review your token collection. This is going to be an interesting year, we Americans have a new president, for better or for worse, and everyone has an opinion. I find it best to not say what I think, in any direction. Oh well, put politics aside, let's keep our token friends.

There is news from the UK, those of you who follow the auction scene will find it changed---Baldwin's name has been purchased again---The buyer, I understand, is Steven Fenton, and he has launched a new firm, "Baldwin's of St. James" Auction house. ---thus the Baldwin name will march on, under the leadership of Fenton, who runs Knightsbridge Coins, and St. James Auction. For our token interest, it is hard to know where it is going to go. Fenton seems to have Baldwin's mailing list, and I am sure we will soon know more. I understand the Baldwin coin sales department still exists, with new numismatists and new management under Neil Paisley.

I for one miss the friendly surroundings of 11 Adelphi Terrace that Baldwins had for many years. A very relaxed place, it had a nice group of numismatists, gentlemen and ladies all, a nice place to sit and look at tokens. I was blessed with the ability to go into the medals room and look through the general stock, pick out what I might want, and take it to the counter. Try that in an American firm!!

As to the auction at Baldwins this last October, I was again quite successful, and if you bid, I hope you were too. This sale had many singles, as in BB-I and BB-II, but BB-III also had many group lots. Some of the group lots were amazingly nice, overall, and some had rarities not seen in a while. I bought quite a few groups as well as a good number of single tokens, so came away happy.

New events -- there will, I am sure, be an auction at DNW, probably sometime in October, (4th?) and the Token Congress will be in Warwick at the Hilton, 6, 7, 8, October. Not sure of the price, but around 190 pounds, I think, for the two nights, five meals, and the talks, and the bourse!! Come if you can, I will help you make arrangements if you wish. Coinex has been moved to being earlier in the year, Sept 22 and 23 --- which makes the timing less than optimal relative to the Congress.

Lastly, the CTCC has finally managed to get all the back Journals scanned, this with a big thanks to **ED MOORE**---and they are now on the CTCC's Web Site, with a thanks to **JON LUSK** and **ERIC HOLCOMB**!! I did nothing, as usual, but am happy it has happened, we have been working toward it for years. If you are a member you now have a password you can use to get into the back issues. A wonderful present!!

I will be retiring as President of the CTCC, so everyone, please think about running for office!!

Happy collecting,



Conder Token Collector Club
Income Statement
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2016

	Current Month		Year to Date	
Revenues				
Dues	\$ 849.27	88.53	\$ 1,595.84	61.27
Advertising	100.00	10.42	725.00	27.84
Back Issues	0.00	0.00	273.60	10.51
Donations	10.00	1.04	10.00	0.38
Total Revenues	959.27	100.00	2,604.44	100.00
Cost of Sales				
Total Cost of Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gross Profit	959.27	100.00	2,604.44	100.00
Expenses				
Journal Printing	0.00	0.00	2,480.00	95.22
Journal Postage	0.00	0.00	2,101.66	80.70
Journal Mailing Supplies	0.00	0.00	135.46	5.20
Postage	0.00	0.00	4.80	0.18
Membership Management Services	0.00	0.00	50.00	1.92
ANA Dues	0.00	0.00	75.00	2.88
Other Expense Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	27.71	1.06
Total Expenses	0.00	0.00	4,874.63	187.17
Net Income	\$ 959.27	100.00	\$ (2,270.19)	(87.17)

Conder Token Collector Club
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2016

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Umpqua Bank Checking	\$ 11,292.80
Total Current Assets	11,292.80
Property and Equipment	
Total Property and Equipment	0.00
Other Assets	
Total Other Assets	0.00
Total Assets	\$ 11,292.80
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	
Current Liabilities	
Total Current Liabilities	0.00
Long-Term Liabilities	
Total Long-Term Liabilities	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00
Capital	
Fund Balance	\$ 13,562.99
Net Income	(2,270.19)
Total Capital	11,292.80
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$ 11,292.80

This report is unaudited

What is it about 19th century tokens?

By Allan Davisson

What accounts for collector resistance to the 19th century copper token series that immediately follows the popular 18th century pieces that “Conder” collectors pursue so enthusiastically?

They are well catalogued, first by Davis (*The Nineteenth Century Token Coinage of Great Britain, Ireland the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man*) published in 1904. Six years later Dalton and Hamer began their series of individual publications issued from 1910 to 1918. In 1999 Paul and Bente Withers published a new study of the 19th century series organizing the issues by town where they were issued rather than by county and adding substantial background detail about the tokens and their issuers.

The Davis reference was not a cheap book. The price for a copy was “Two Guineas, net,” over £200 today. And for that you got a signed and numbered copy of one of a limited edition of 258 copies. It was a quarto volume, “328 pages of letter-press” print, handmade paper and 33 autotype plates.

It is a readily usable book until you compare it with Dalton and Hamer which has photos in the text for every variety and easy-to-decipher descriptions of each type. Davis separates the photos from the text and has less-than-precise descriptions like “the pavement is shorter than the wall.”

The Withers volume is more user-friendly with photos in the text showing all the types and varieties along with the descriptions.

Both Davis and Withers show a grasp of the series that is extensive and fascinating. So, if history is something that appeals, the 19th century series certainly matches that motivation behind the late 18th century material.

The Davis introduction to these early 19th century issues explains the need for the series in terms reflecting the recurring need for tokens in British monetary history. By 1797, Davis notes, the “disappearance of the token currency...was undoubtedly the avarice of some traders, who sought to make as much as 30 per cent profit from the issue of their tokens.” (He is referring to the “Conder” series.)

The Soho Mint, with instructions from Parliament and under Matthew Boulton, began striking two penny and penny pieces in 1797. “The copper coinage of 1797, struck at the Soho Mint, possessed beauty of design, good quality and weight of metal, and was so excellently wrought as to defy the forger’s art.”

The stipulation was that “eight twopenny pieces and sixteen pennies were to weigh a pound respectively.” The problem for the public was “that an artisan who was paid his wages of 20s. (shillings) in those coins would have to carry 15 lb. in weight from the pay-table.”

The response to this was to pay workers with pound notes. The problem of obtaining change for these notes is a familiar chapter in the unmet need for small change and the resulting token coinage.

Economics and government inaction played their parts as well. By 1807 the value of copper had increased enough that early good copper tokens like the Anglesey pieces and the earlier official currency issues were worth more melted than spent. Fourteen years passed before the government authorized copper coins in 1821 when the Pistrucci-designed farthing was issued. Pennies and halfpennies were not officially minted until 1825.

So, the classic problem of no small change in the marketplace brought about the token series of 1811 to 1820. This series began with the same commitment as the Welsh issuers: provide a token with a copper value that matches the market price of copper. Generally speaking, the series does conform to this standard. There was still a weight problem particularly now that a penny was a more useful denomination. The largest copper piece ever issued in Britain either as a token or a currency issue was a 5.5 ounce six penny piece issued in Birmingham. (There was a short-lived series of silver tokens in 1811 and 1812 that failed because of the seemingly irresistible temptation to skimp on weight.)

So, the history is the same as the other well-catalogued series—17th century, 18th century. What could be objectionable enough that they do not inspire more collectors?

Heft: they tend to be large because they contained a full weight of copper. Besides, many are too big to fit in a normal 2 by 2 holder, a problem if you want your holdings neatly arranged in boxes to fit 2x2 envelopes or flips.

They were minted for use so they tend to be worn. They were heavy so when they were dropped, they got banged up.

Many of them are very utilitarian—little grace and beauty.

For some of the varieties, the difference between “very rare” and “very common” can be little more than a minor variation in punctuation or letter placement (but this is little different than counting acorns on a Druid halfpenny).

There are answers to all these objections. Heft, for example, can be one of the more fascinating aspects of the series. The Birmingham Workhouse sixpence shown below is 50 mm in diameter and 9 mm thick—a solid chunk of copper with a well-designed image of the Birmingham workhouse.

Incorporated in 1783, the Workhouse “overseers of the poor” provided help in the form of tokens for the poor or payments for work done in the workhouse. They were taken as payment by local merchants who then redeemed the tokens at the workhouse.

Withers 375, Davis 28 (50mm)



The denomination was pared down a bit to a 45 mm size weighing 4.5 ounces but 10 mm thick. But it was still heavy, hardly a handy bit of pocket change.

Withers 376 (45mm)



For those of us who are fascinated by the minting history and the design, the sheer size of these is a major part of their appeal. Both are very rare, seven examples of the larger piece and six of the smaller piece were known to Davis. The makers apparently found these to be too overwhelming—they were not issued for use.

Sixpences aside, by this time in England the halfpenny of the late 1700s was not valuable enough for regular commerce and there was more demand for a larger denomination. So pennies, twopences and even threepence sized tokens appear in the series.

Withers 381, a threepence (44mm)



The most common and extensively produced denomination was the penny. A pattern in 1811 engraved by P. Wyon became the basis for pennies dated 1812, 1813 and 1814. These pieces were well enough received that “An act of Parliament in 1817 effectively made Birmingham penny tokens legal tender.” (Withers, p. 75)

Withers 390 (34mm)



Better minting technology meant that tokens were generally produced to a fine standard. Many merchants and companies created tokens for trade. The number of varieties extant for many of the issues suggests that enough were minted for many of these subscribers that several dies were used up in the process of supplying the quantities ordered.

This is readily apparent simply thumbing through the Withers volume where each variety is photographed. The changes are often slight but noticeable, not unlike the variations from die to die for early American copper.

One key criterion for collectors is subject and visual appeal. A piece like the Rose Copper Company penny is very utilitarian in its design. Yet, it is a handsome piece of copper with a very straightforward design. Withers shows 14 die variations.

Withers 245 (35 mm)



But even designs meant to be primarily utilitarian could show some thematic variation. A more general issue in Birmingham was a token Withers considers speculative “for sale to employers who needed to pay their workmen.” This issue has a well-defined set of Prince of Wales’ plumes on the obverse and a handsome prancing horse on the reverse. The speculative venture must have been somewhat successful because Withers identifies ten die varieties.

Withers 185 (35 mm)



Images of the Industrial Revolution appear on several tokens of the era. Samuel Fereday, an industrialist, put the Prestfield furnaces on a two penny token. Three blast furnaces, an engine house with an early example of a curved roof and a building where ore was heated to burn off impurities provide a detailed view of his iron works.

Withers 42 (40mm)



The Phoenix Iron Works in Sheffield show a single furnace with two cannon and cannon balls below; the reverse of the piece shows Justice with her scales in front of a bale and a barrel.

Withers 1040 (33 mm)



A series of buildings for manufacturing appear on another Sheffield issue, the penny of Roscoe Place. Withers (who studied city records of the era for many of the tokens they catalog) notes that Roscoe place appeared under several categories; “candlestick manufacturers, edge tool makers, fender makers, fire iron manufacturers, iron foundries, merchants, stove grate manufacturers....” The reverse has a handsome depiction of Commerce seated on a bale, a sword on the ground in front and a ship in the background.

Withers (34mm)



An elegant sailing ship in harbor, sails furled is featured on a Newcastle on Tyne piece issued by the Bewicke Main Colliery.

Withers 885a (33mm)



It was not all strictly business design. In Walsall (Staffordshire) Fletcher and Sharratt, local merchants issued a pair of fascinating pieces, a penny and a halfpenny, that show a bear scratching on a post. Another of their pieces featured a local church, St. Matthew's.

Withers 1147 (34mm)



Withers 1158 (33mm)



Finally, there is great drama with a few pieces in the series. The Devonshire twopence showing the Edystone Lighthouse is one of the great tokens in the series (shown here as a silver Taylor restrike; originally a copper issue). Catalogued by Davis under Devonshire, Withers elected not to include it. (Another series Withers did not include is the series of Newcastle farthing white metal issues, Davis Northumberland 18—32, from the Cockayne Collection published in Volume 66 of the CTCC Journal.)

Davis 22 (41mm)



A token? A medal? One can ask that question about many pieces in the 18th century reference (D&H). All in all, this seems an issue but not a defining issue. Dalton and Hamer in their work and Davis in his chose to include products of the era that reflected a time of increased minting skill and even experimentation, widespread social change because of the Industrial Revolution and a world undergoing great changes.

A quick overview of a series as extensive as this can do little more than sample a bit here and there. Every piece shown here is in at least Extremely Fine condition and many are uncirculated. Tokens of exceptional condition are available. The made-for-collector pieces of Kempson or Spence or the vanity tokens of various late 18th century collectors were more actively saved. The

19th century pieces were not saved to the same extent but choice examples are still well within the reach of collectors with limited budgets.

More to the point, the series offers a cross section of one of the great shifts in society and life not only in Britain but in the Western world generally. They reflect the great advances in minting technology by Boulton and others. And there is a wealthy variety of design and appeal.

One of the great ways to build a satisfying and significant collection is to find something that is out of fashion. The early 19th century series offers that.



Randy Weir Numismatics Limited

I am pleased to announce that 600 early 19th century tokens from the Francis Cokayne collection is now available for viewing on my website; randyweirnumismatics.com. It is a fascinating series but not for the impatient or solely 'grade' conscious collector. They are numbered in the ad, solely via Withers number, an excellent reference catalogue.

Randy Weir

Email: randy.weir@rogers.com

Web site: randyweirnumismatics.com

Phone Number 416-230-3142

England's First Trade Tokens?

By Allan Davisson

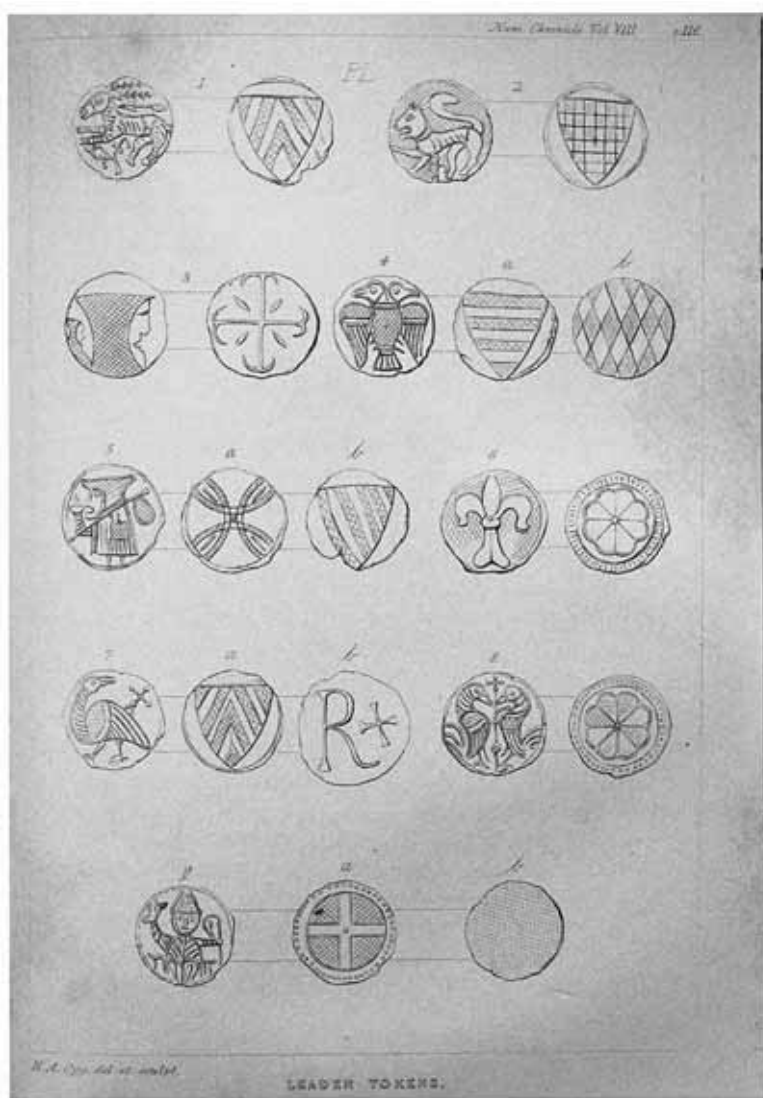
When did the use of trade tokens in Britain begin? The answer may be during the reign of Edward I whose introduction of a round farthing in 1279 quickly put an end to the need for a token to use as “small change.” This is a possible interpretation provided in a 1971 article by Michael Dolley and W. A. Seaby, two very prominent 20th century numismatists.

The story begins in the 1845-6 edition of the *Numismatic Chronicle* with the report of a find of “several hundreds” of “quaint” tokens found in a ditching project just outside the great London wall near Aldersgate Street, a location not far from the Museum of London. These pieces are of a high quality cast, and there was some muling of obverses and reverses. The plate shown is from Akerman's article.

The author of the article was John Akerman, an important 19th century numismatist whom Manville calls “one of the principal mid-nineteenth century architects in encouraging interest in numismatics,” adding that he was a person who “did not suffer fools gladly.”

Akerman noted that a need for change was an ongoing problem. “The history of the English coinage furnishes us with many anecdotes, illustrating the inconvenience and misery arising from the want of a proper supply of the fractions of the commonest current coin...” was his observation in the 1840s, a statement well borne out by the many token series—17th century, 18th century early and late, 19th century early and mid-century—that make up a huge chapter in the history of British numismatics.

Akerman did not speculate about the time of origin but he did note that there was an unmet need for a farthing coin in an era when a penny (a day's wage for a laborer at the time) was too large a denomination “for very general use among the poor.” One-hundred-twenty-six years later Dolley and Seaby note that the idea that the pieces originated in



the thirteenth century was supported by a find of a “little clump” of similar pieces in a thirteenth-century “Dublin cess pit” used later in the era for general disposal and containing other artifacts that allowed a close estimate of the date. This was the Dublin (Winetavern Street) hoard.

They suggest that a Dublin entrepreneur imported a bulk order of these pieces noting that tin was a valuable metal and this group was nearly two pounds. They think the total number would have been 4320 or 5184 depending on the quantity ordered—long “hundreds” or two gross of each variety. The shipment could well have been abandoned when there was legal pressure against its use. But the fact that it was ordered in the first place suggests that someone was manufacturing a token unit of exchange that was well enough made to a consistent standard that a merchant—a tavern owner is suggested by Akerman—would buy them for small change needs.

A 1984 British Numismatic Chronicle by Michael Mitchiner and Anne Skinner disagrees arguing that “Although base metal tokens were frequently used as an alternative to small denomination official coinage, the medieval token should not really be conceived as a straight monetary substitute: at least not until after the Reformation so far as England is concerned.” In their exhaustive and detailed discussion of tokens in this era they do observe that “Circulation of these tokens during the second half of the thirteenth century is clearly attested by extant evidence.”

Their article is rich with detail: Who? Probably ecclesiastical (“1307 marks the first recorded citations of English secular pewterers in London.”) They do not pin down an exact use leaving room for the token speculation. How made? Stone molds. Why pewter? More durable than lead. Designs? Decorative rather than informative. The authors also provide extensive lists of varieties and die combinations.

To come back to the question that started all this: Are these the first examples of “trade tokens” in England. Dolley and Seaby concluded that “the 1971 discovery in Dublin has established beyond all possibility of refutation that objects of the class first described by Akerman are (a) authentic, (b) numismatic and (c) of late thirteenth-century date.”

The social and economic issues that led to later outbursts of token production—small change for working men—were present. Accounts of the time refer to the use of silver farthings, something that was far more awkward when one had to cut down a penny. Whether the pieces were intended to serve a monetary function or not, the point is that there is a logic to it having been a use.

Like the 18th century tokens that have become the dominant enthusiasm of so many collectors these issues offer an elegance of design and, generally, superior condition (Dolley and Seaby noted that “the condition of the individual pieces is superb”). Finally, like all the other token series that were created for a needy public, this fascinating little numismatic chapter provides a tangible tie to an era eight centuries past.

Finally, what do they sell for? You will see them occasionally. CNG sold an EF pair in 2005 for over \$700. In 2016 they sold an unlisted type for \$160 and another (Mitchiner and Skinner 22) for over \$300.

References cited:

Akerman, J. "Leaden Tokens Found in London." *British Numismatic Chronicle Vol VIII*. 1845-6. Pp. 116-7.

Dolley, M. & Seaby, W. A. "A Find of Thirteenth-Century Pewter Tokens from the National Museum Excavations at Winetavern Street, Dublin." *SNC (Spink Numismatic Circular)*. Vol. LXXIX. 1971. Pp 446-448.

Manville, H. *Biographical Dictionary of British and Irish Numismatics. Encyclopedia of British Numismatics, Volume IV*. Spink. 2009/

Mitchiner, M. & Skinner, A. "English Tokens, c. 1200 to 1425." *British Numismatic Chronicle*. Volume 53. 1983. Pp. 29-77.



Fourteenth Century Britain. Pewter token. .72 gm. 16 mm. A bird (goose? though the authors cited call it a pelican) walking left, head turned back, a cross with pellets at the tips above / A square topped shield with alternating bands in an inverted V configuration. As 7a, plate in Num Chron VIII (1845-6); pp 116ff. Cf. SNC LXXIX (1971); pp 446ff. Good Very Fine.

Why a pelican when it looks like a goose? It has been considered a symbol of Christ because of the legend it would use its beak to cut itself to obtain blood to feed its young--an example of self sacrifice.



Fourteenth Century Britain. Pewter token. 1.09 gm. 18 mm. A two-headed eagle, facing / A monogram, AMT. As 11 obv, 26 rev, plate in SNC LXXIX (1971); pp 446ff. Cf. Num Chron VIII (1845-6); pp 116ff. Type illustrated in Mitchiner & Skinner; 24 (though this finer work). Good Very Fine.



Fourteenth Century Britain. Pewter token. .79 gm. 15 mm. Pascal lamb left, facing back looking at the top of long handled cross that has a pennant flying from it / A cross with fan-shaped arms, a pellet in each angle. As 11 obv, 26 rev, plate in SNC LXXIX (1971); pp 446ff. As 2 (though lamb left instead of right—obv 4) Num Chron VIII (1845-6); pp 116ff. Near Extremely Fine; choice.



Fourteenth Century Britain. Pewter token. .65 gm. 18 mm. A cowed figure (a pilgrim) standing right with a long pole over his shoulder, a bag at the top of the pole / A square-topped shield, quartered. As 26 (obv) and 34 (rev) SNC LXXIX (1971); pp 446ff. Cf Num Chron VIII (1845-6); pp 116ff. Good Very Fine.



This is similar work but the design does not have any direct comparables in the references cited.

Fourteenth Century Britain. Pewter token. 1.31 gm. 17 mm. A facing bearded bust with a triangular hat, hatching in a circle around, pellet outer circle / Back-back crescents forming an X, a pellet in each angle; hatching in a circle around. Cf. SNC LXXIX (1971); pp 446ff. Cf. Num Chron VIII (1845-6); pp 116ff. Good Very Fine.

Finally, a Congress with a 100% Approval Rating!

The 2016 Token Travel Diary

by Jeff Rock

As I write this the US Presidential election has just wrapped up, leaving many people in shock and others in ecstasy. But don't worry, this isn't an article about politics – though with the seemingly endless TV ads, Robo-calls and political flyers arriving in American mailboxes on a daily basis, it seemed a topical title for this report of the 2016 Token Congress (better known as one Congress where you're NOT paid to sit down and do nothing), as well as the third installment of the Baldwin's Basement sales.

As in the previous few years, this writer combined the token “work” stuff along with a bit of holiday. After all, for those of us coming from the US (and especially the West Coast), the most expensive single part of the trip (other than buying tokens!) is usually the airfare – and once you have that paid it is usually quite inexpensive to get around and stay in the UK. London, of course, is the priciest city, but if you are willing to sacrifice space and get an extremely small hotel room, one can be found for around \$100 a night, while a more average size room will cost you at least double that. I've found, on many repeat visits to the city, that I spend very little time in my hotel – I sleep, shower, eat breakfast there and leave, and often do not return until I am ready to sleep again, which means I need a fairly comfortable bed, a shower with hot water and decent WiFi (the one concession to modern times). A mid-sized hotel room that might have been \$200-300 a night in London will usually be under \$100 when you travel outside of the city, and some charming places can be found under \$75, and since the token happenings are outside of peak travel season there are often many hotels to choose from. This year the US contingency had an added bonus – post-Brexit, the Pound went into something of a free fall against the dollar, costing 15-20% less than it did last year. Of course, that doesn't mean that any of us actually saved money, it just meant we bought 15-20% more tokens and splurged on some better meals along the way.

This year I started up north in Edinburgh and worked my way down. For those of you who might have thought about going but are wondering how to get around, it should be noted that public transportation in England is extremely well run. Trains go to every large, medium and many small cities, while local bus service will get you to most places that trains don't. You really don't need to learn to drive on the other side of the road, but if you do you can travel to more places off the beaten path and have the joy of finding things you might not otherwise have seen. Edinburgh is a lovely city, with an imposing castle and cleanly divided between the Old and New Towns, the New Town having fantastic Georgian architecture and symmetry, while the charming Old Town has diverse styles spanning many centuries of habitation. Being Scotland there were ample opportunities for one of my favorite non-numismatic pastimes, whisky tasting. For those who appreciate the Water of Life, Scotland is a must-see (though most of the actual production is further north in the Highlands or on some of the islands). From there I traveled to the Lake District (gorgeous), Manchester (not so much) the walled city of Chester, which is probably worthy of the rare repeat visit, and then down into London for the beginning of a solid couple weeks of Total Token Immersion.

Getting into London the day before Coinex, the big coin show (or fair, for our British readers) allowed me to run to the British Museum and continue my examination of their evasion

coppers, many of which are pedigreed back to virtually the year they were made. While in the study room, one of the two other people viewing items spoke with a distinct American accent and was also younger than the average collector. We chatted a bit and it turned out that he was the son of a dealer who specializes in Latin American and Mexican coinages – and whose shop used to be about a half mile from my home in San Diego! Small world, indeed. Between this visit and one later in the week I was able to finish up my viewing of the evasion coppers, which was a critical step towards working on a book on the series.

Coinex, which is one of England's larger coin fairs was held Friday and Saturday at a hotel in Grosvenor Square, which is a pleasant half hour walk from my hotel. Usually. This year as I left my hotel the skies went from slightly cloudy to dark in the space of 10 blocks, and then it started pouring. While I had my umbrella (it IS England after all), I also had a backpack filled with books, notes and my iPad, and as the rain was blowing in sideways with the wind it meant a fast run to the nearest Tube station – a shame to only take it two stops, but most collectors would agree that books are more precious than gold. I've described the show in past travel diary accounts, so won't go into detail here. Suffice it to say that the focus is on British, European and Ancient coinage (pretty much in that order), and there are a couple of dealers who also stock tokens, including Simon Monks, John Newman (who was the organizer for this year's Token Congress, discussed later), Richard Gladdle and Howard and Frances Simmons. What one does not see at this show is table after table full of slabbed modern coinage (and, aside from a few major American-based dealers that set up, you are unlikely to see many slabbed coins period). The sheer pleasure of not seeing a single Morgan Dollar makes the trip worth every halfpence it takes to get there! But don't expect to walk miles (errrr, kilometers?) up and down endless aisles as in a major US coin show. The Brits do quality over quantity, and this show has about 50 dealers set up, but nearly every case is worth stopping and looking at, and you will quickly run out of time before you can see it all (heck, I spent 90% of my time at two dealer's tables and still could have used a few hours more!).

The Yankee Contingency, a little stronger this year with over a half dozen flying over for the festivities, arrived at Coinex and was in full force for the rest of the week. Several token dealers and a slightly larger number of collectors eyed each other warily as they circled the room – but it was a good-natured competition since we all knew there were going to be far more tokens available than any of us could ever buy. Indeed, we all pretty much stopped and pointed out pieces that might be interesting to other collectors when we saw them (unless we wanted them too, of course - then we would share them AFTER we bought them!). A few new American faces were in attendance as well, so perhaps these convention diaries are more than just space-filler for the *Journal*, and have enticed a few more people to make the trip. If you are a serious collector of the “Conder” series, then making the trek is really something you should consider doing, as there is nothing comparable to this experience in the United States. But be warned – you will have so much fun that a one-time event can easily turn into a yearly pilgrimage across the Pond!

The very same group of Americans was already at lot viewing at Baldwin's on Monday morning when I walked in, all of 10 minutes after viewing started (the locals were able to view earlier, at their leisure). There was barely space to squeeze in to view lots – talk about eager collectors! But, with good reason. This was the third installment of the legendary Baldwin's Basement holdings, with pieces that have been off the market for 50-100 years or more. While this sale didn't have as many of the legendary rarities as the previous two, it was chock full of rare and interesting tokens -- including high grades, off metals, unlisted edge varieties and pieces

pedigreed to pretty much every notable collection of the 19th and early 20th centuries. It was the smallest of the three sales in terms of total lots, but it was the first sale to have group lots as well as singletons – and thus had more actual tokens than the previous two sales combined. These group lots were seldom without interest – a group of 15 tokens might, for instance, contain a full mint red specimen, a couple brown Uncs., an unlisted edge variety and two extremely rare edge varieties. But you had to buy the 8 other tokens to get the best 7 – not bad for a dealer or a newer collector who would need most of the rest of the lot, but always harder for an advanced collector who might only need 1 or 2 out of the 15 tokens...still those were usually so rare that few advanced collectors hesitated to raise their hands, even if it meant acquiring duplicates along the way.

The auction prices were strong, but few were ridiculously so. Some of the rarest pieces went for multiples of the high estimate, while others sold at or even below low estimate. The sale was again catalogued by American dealer Gary Groll, and again listed by the token issuer – though this year they were separated by country, with the English issues first, followed by Wales, Scotland and Ireland which made it a bit easier for collectors interested in just one country to find the lots they wanted. An index in the rear of the catalogue lists the tokens in the more traditional D&H order and gives their lot numbers, which makes locating a specific variety much easier.

While a discussion of all the prices would be impossible in a short amount of space, a few highlights and interesting lots will be mentioned. The work of a young John Gregory Hancock – responsible for engraving the dies of some George Washington pieces collected as part of the American colonial series – continues to sell strong, with a Warwickshire 142 and 143 bringing £1750 and £1050 (all prices quoted here will be hammer prices – an additional 20% buyer's fee was added to all sold lots; at the time of the sale the Pound was trading at \$1.30 or so, so just multiply the price in Pounds by 1.3 to get the dollar equivalent). A half dozen extremely rare silver Kempson penny pieces in the early Gloucestershire series brought roughly £1,000 apiece, a bit above their high estimate, while the silver halfpennies by the same man in the Warwickshire series (D&H 265-293) each sold in the £800 range. The extremely rare Cheshire 75, a mule of a Charles Roe obverse and an Anglesey penny reverse brought well over estimate at £920 – but it was the finest of perhaps just two known, and I suspect the new owner was thrilled to get it. A group of a half dozen white metal mules of obverse dies used for some of Kempson's building tokens – all unlisted in D&H, even though all were owned by Davis, Hamer and Cokayne at different times – sold for £220-340 apiece, and though these were most likely not contemporary with the Kempson strikings (and probably made by Ottley when he did other restrikes), each was unique and the prices perhaps a bit of a bargain for the lucky new owners. The run of Skidmore-Spence pieces sold mostly strong, despite there being something of a glut of them on the market over the last few years – an encouraging sign that there is continued interest in these fascinating issues. The most expensive piece in the sale was a unique Anglesey 99 struck in silver – a gorgeous penny-sized piece, with an incomparable pedigree, that brought £5,200, one bid over its high estimate, while a uniface silver Anglesey halfpenny brought just £760, a tad over its low estimate. A lovely Ayrshire 1 silver penny brought £2,300. But it wasn't just the noble metals that brought high prices – that same amount won an extremely rare Dublin 306, Cooley's halfpenny. Another Irish copper, a piece unlisted in D&H but now known as Dublin 345*bis* brought £1,150, a strong price for a series that was often neglected in the past.

Group lots seldom went below estimate, and often soared well above, though it depended on what exactly was in each group. Those with extremely rare varieties or unlisted edges saw

great interest from collectors and dealers and often sold above estimate, while those with a mix of more available varieties usually sold closer to the low end of the range. Many lots had tokens that were worthy of being offered as single lots, but those pieces added interest to groups that might otherwise have not seen much bidding. The cataloguer and auction house did their usual excellent job keeping the tickets of previous owners with the lots, and those lots with exceptional provenances (such as Dalton, Hamer, Cokayne, Lincoln and others) always seemed to realize a bid or two higher than they would have without those roundels. Hopefully current and future collectors realize this and keep that paper ephemera with their purchases for centuries to come.

In the Anglesey series, pieces generally brought much stronger prices than the same varieties managed in the Griffiths sale a few years back. An extremely long run of Scottish farthings sold all over the place, with the rarest pieces going quite strong and many of the more commonly available varieties selling below low estimate. The Dublin Camac issues, attributed by Gregg Silvis who is working on a book for this confounding series, mostly sold at low estimate or below, though a few rarer pieces went higher. It's always hard for a cataloguer to judge the level of current interest in any given series and thus would be impossible for them to predict what a final hammer price would be on anything – but to this writer's mind having unlisted and/or extremely rare Camac varieties sell at £100 or less is really amazing. Perhaps there is a mental difference between American and British collectors. Those of us in the U.S. normally started out collecting other series before the 18th century tokens, and often those series were also early copper – half cents, large cents or colonial coinage. For those series die varieties mean everything – and two coins of the same date and general style could be valued at different ends of the spectrum. For this writer, who cut his teeth on (and still deals in) American colonial coinage, that seems second nature. Two varieties of, say, 1787 Connecticut coppers that have the exact same legends and devices but with the dot after one word in a slightly different position could be valued at \$100 for the first one and \$50,000 for the second one. With large cents that top price could be \$100,000! So American eyes are keen to find those differences, and we have the appreciation for collecting individual die varieties in larger series. Some British collectors think that excessive and they content themselves with major types within a large series, perhaps seeking out edge variations as well. The nice thing about our area of collecting is that there is no right or wrong way to do it – you collect what interests you, and that is all you need to do. You might want one of every variety, you might want one from every county or every town, you might only collect ones with ships or farthing sizes or off-metals or errors or a specific edge legend. Whatever it is you pursue, you enjoy the hunt and learn something along the way!

A Prices Realized list for this sale can be found on the Baldwin's website, and PDF files of the auction catalogue itself can be downloaded there as well. With the other two Basement sales, this is one of the most important offerings of 18th century tokens since the Noble and Robbie Brown auctions, and they all belong on the bookshelf of every collector, and will surely be referred back to for some time to come.

Despite some slow internet and telephone bidding, the sale ended a bit earlier than the previous two years, and a couple of us headed across the street to a pub with Seth Freeman (who called the entire auction) and a few of the hardworking Baldwin's staff for a celebratory pint or two (or three). The totals for these sales are edging close to a million Pounds -- which seems like an awful lot of money to have sitting in your basement for a century, doesn't it? While this is (probably) the last of the large boutique auctions featuring major tokens from the Basement, there are still thousands of tokens remaining which will appear in future sales – and who knows, some more great rarities may be found along the way. Collectors will certainly be looking

forward to future Baldwin's sales, and it is expected that next year will see the return of a DNW sale in the week before the Token Congress as well.

And that Congress was just a few days away – but I wasn't quite done with London yet! New dealer Doris Black and I attended a play the night after the auction, a West End production of Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land*. What made it extraordinary were the two stars – Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen, both fully deserving of the Sir's before their names. Their acting was nuanced and superb, McKellen (now 77 years old) scampering around stage throughout the show like someone half his age and Stewart's resonant voice echoing from the theater walls. While this writer secretly hoped that the second Act would feature them in their X-men costumes, the play and the actors were so engrossing that you forgot those other roles as they made these two characters their own. Want another reason to visit London? Decent tickets for this show were around £50, a fraction of what they would have run in New York with stars of this magnitude!

The following day I headed up to Northampton, the site again for this year's Congress, getting there a day early as I hoped to see some of the town itself (the Hilton Hotel where the Congress is held is actually a good 5 or 6 miles outside of the city). I had hoped to visit Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington – but unfortunately it was 40 miles away and there were no trains or bus lines that went anywhere near it (OK, so trains and busses don't go EVERYWHERE on the island). A taxi could be had, but it would be about £100 each way, and I didn't want to see the house THAT bad. Perhaps some future Congress planner could add this to a Congress held in Northampton some time down the road, ideally either the afternoon before the dinner or on the Sunday after the Congress itself ends – I suspect a fair number of the Americans would want to see the house, and some of the Brits may be interested as well.

As always, walking into the hotel at the beginning of the Congress is to be met by smiling faces. Old friends and new ones gather together in groups, catching up on things and of course showing new additions to their collections. A few intrepid collectors and dealers brought out some tokens for sale before the festivities actually started, and whenever some trays or boxes were pulled out, a small crowd would soon form, like sharks sensing fresh blood in the waters. After everyone checked in and headed to their rooms to freshen up, we met for our first dinner together. Served buffet style, with plenty of choices (including several delicious desserts), we sat at large tables, guaranteeing that you sat with some people you knew and others who were new – and within minutes you were chatting away about what you collected. The attendees once again had their thirsts quenched courtesy of Baldwin's, who donated 3 kegs of local beer. Giving up on the printed paper tickets from last year, this year it was all self-serve, with an honor box set up alongside, and the couple Pounds per beer were given to the staff after we left – something that will insure our continued welcome at this hotel! This was the largest Congress yet, with over 100 attendees, and there were seldom empty chairs to be found for any of the talks. Unlike some parts of the numismatic hobby that see shrinking attendance, it seems that every year there are a few more new faces attending these events – a good omen for the future indeed.

After dinner we headed to the next room to view auction lots, all of which were consigned by other collectors. Unlike the Baldwin's auction a few days earlier, these pieces sold mostly in the £1 to £20 range (really, some did sell at just £1!), with just a couple tokens going over £50. The auction was called by Peter Preston-Morley from DNW with his usual flair and commentary, cajoling bidders along when something was going too cheap. The auction contained a mix of tokens from before the 17th century up to the 20th, and with a nice run of 18th century pieces for those of us who covet that century. The range depends on what is brought

each year, but there are usually things of interest to everyone in the room, as well as some reference books and other literature at the end of the auction. This year featured a large run of price lists by John Whitmore who had unexpectedly passed away a month before the Congress; when the bidding stalled at just a few Pounds, Peter was able to get some more interest by saying “come on people, John would not be happy with this!” Indeed, John’s presence was missed by all who knew him – he was someone who was greatly interested in tokens, coins and medals, and a wonderful organizer of information. He was also the very picture of a gentleman – honest in his dealings, a man of his word and with a sly, understated sense of humor.



Meeting and greeting (and a little horse trading) in the lobby of the Hilton Hotel, Northampton, before the start of the 35th British Token Congress. Photo courtesy of Seth Freeman, Baldwin's.

After the auction – with payment and pickup done right there – groups straggled out of the room, over to the beer kegs and into the hotel lobby for chatting well past midnight, even though we all knew that tomorrow was going to be a long token-filled day!

Indeed it was. Breakfast started at 7:30 am, and the talks started at 9:00. Three talks, then a break for tea, three more and a break for lunch, three more and yet another tea break (it is England), four more and then a break to clean up and get ready for dinner. The talks were varied and exceedingly good. While most dealt with British subjects, there was a talk on the tokens of Antwerp, and one concerning the sinking of the Lusitania. The talks were on 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th century tokens and included specialized talks on specific counties and people, as well as more general talks that took into account wider areas of interest. There was literally something for every collector – and the talks that were on topics outside one’s particular area of interest were often the most interesting (and certainly had the most to teach since much of that information would be new to the listener). Other topics discussed this year included engraved coins, medals of the Lord Mayors of London, the *Sentimental Magazine* tokens of the early 1770’s, and foundling tokens – numismatic items left with children that were given up by their parents. Other talks included ones with the titles “A Night at the Beer Shop,” “A bit on the side” and “Would you Adam and Eve It?” – if you want to know what wisdom was imparted in those lectures, you probably should have made the trip. But there will certainly be more talks with fascinating titles, so why not join us and hear them for yourselves in 2017?



One of the 20 different talks presented at the Token Congress, with attendees in rapt attention as they learned something new. Photo courtesy of Seth Freeman, Baldwin's.

After a long day of sitting, what better way to end the day than sitting some more – this time at another dinner? The sitting was eased by the presence of a couple bottles of wine on every table, generously supplied by DNW, and that put everyone in a happy mood. This was especially welcome since right after dinner we again moved into the adjoining room, this time for the bourse floor. Anyone who attends can get a table and sell things, and there was a mix of well-established dealers, smaller vest-pocket dealers and collectors selling off duplicates. Again, something for every attendee could be found in the room, and few people left without adding a handful of new tokens to their collections. This writer left with a few pounds of copper and far fewer Pounds of paper than when he walked into the room! And wouldn't have it any other way. Most of the dealers set up were British – it's a long way for an American dealer to come with inventory in hand – but Doris Black did set up with 18th century tokens, and a good bottle of French wine – a sales practice I encourage every dealer to emulate for future bourse shows!

From the bourse many found their way back to the keg (by this point only one still had anything in it!) and the hotel lobby for even more chat well into the wee hours. Like every memorable coin show, the numismatic side is fun, but is the social part of the equation that makes the experience truly enjoyable. Many of these collectors only see each other once or twice a year, but the friendships and bonding can last a lifetime.



The bourse on the final night – a true collector's paradise, without a single slabbed coin anywhere in sight. Don't let the relatively serene nature of the picture fool you – at times there were people queued up waiting to get to a dealer's table! Photo courtesy of Seth Freeman, Baldwin's.

Despite the long day, we were up to do the same again on Sunday – early breakfast, three talks, a break for tea and then three more talks before the 35th British Token Congress came to a close and people headed to cars, trains and planes, all looking forward to next year when they would meet up again. And next year's Congress has already been set – this time in Warwickshire, from October 6th through October 8th. You've had enough warning, so request some time off from work, check out airfares and hotels and join us for a weekend unlike anything else you've attended before. You might also want to add a few extra days to your trip Warwickshire not only has one of the best preserved medieval castles in all of England, it is also a short 16 miles from Stratford-upon-Avon, a gorgeous city where you can go see a Shakespeare play performed – a truly thrilling experience!

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PHOTOGRAPHING THE EDGES

By Ed Moore

Warwickshire / Wilkinson DH 349



Anglesey DH 279



Warwickshire DH 21 (Penny Token)



Let me begin by telling you that these are actual photographs of the entire edge of the tokens, not photo-shopped or compiled images. For those who would like to duplicate my method of taking a photo of the entire edge, I will explain the method and then try to provide enough detail so that you can duplicate the process.

THE SHORT VERSION

First, you will need a smart phone equipped with a camera which will take a panoramic image. Attach one of those clip-on MACRO lenses for taking a close-up. The instructions tell you to keep the camera moving and level as you take a panoramic picture and the trick here is that as long as the image is moving in front of the lens, the phone thinks you are doing it right, so simply spinning the token around in front of the camera slowly allows you to photograph the entire edge.

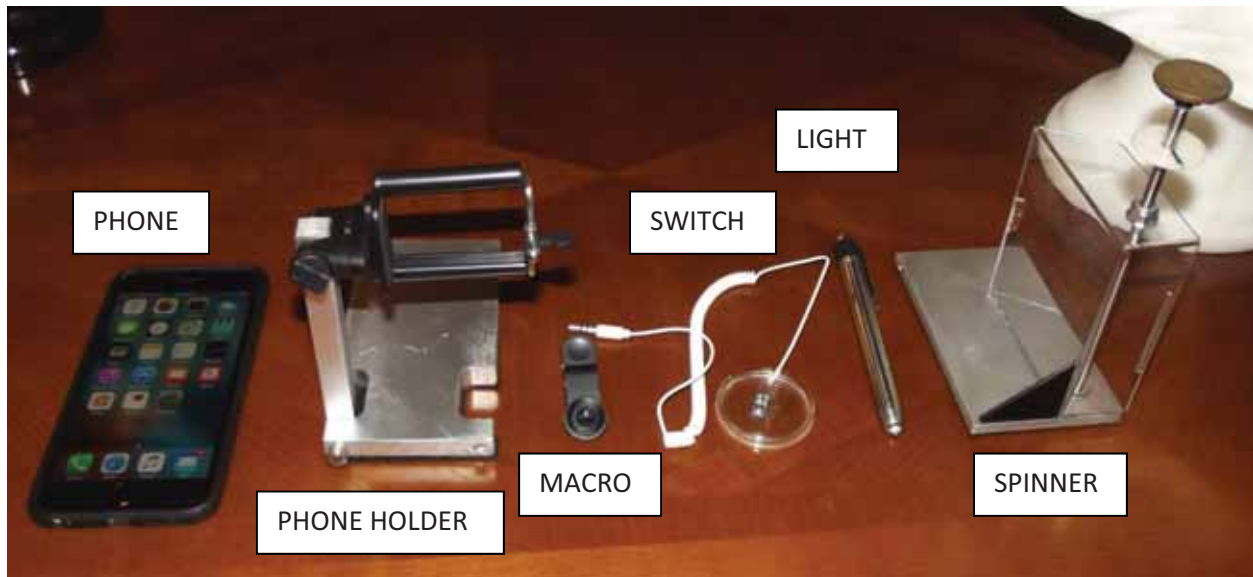
NOW THE DETAILS

The phone is obviously the expensive item in this process but if you are alive and well in this day and age you are probably using one already. I was able to purchase all of the additional items I needed for the project for under \$20. You need some way to hold the phone upright and steady and I found a wired Selfie Stick for under \$5. I removed the phone holder and the wired remote switch from the Selfie Stick. I mounted the phone holder on a stable base leaving enough room under the phone to plug in the remote switch. That switch is important because it will allow you to start and stop the panoramic photo process without touching the phone which must remain still and stable.

The clip-on camera lens comes with three different lenses but you will only need the small one, the macro lens. I found the lenses on-line for up to \$40 but I found the same set at a local retail store for under \$5 so shop around.

The only hard part was constructing a miniature turn table to spin the token in front of the lens. The token must spin level about one half inch in front of the camera. At first I wanted to motorize the turn table but I found that turning the thing by hand was easier. The phone will actually tell you to move faster or to slow down so turning by hand is best. I used a pen-light for my light source so I could direct the beam exactly on the spot in front of the camera. You can see the results above so have fun with your collection! Cheers for now, Ed Moore

THE EQUIPMENT



THE SETUP



A simple turn table can be constructed by removing the eraser from a standard pencil and gluing a flat washer to the metal top. Place the pencil into a short length of a plastic straw and tape the straw to an object so that it is held upright and steady leaving enough pencil exposed so that it can be turned by hand. A vent clip phone holder clipped to a small board will hold the phone upright. A remote switch is not essential.

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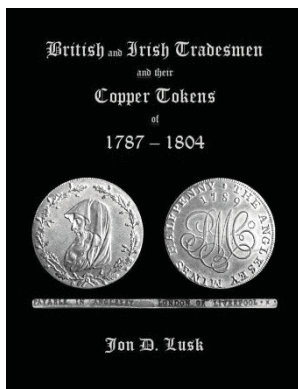
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